

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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February 25, 2003

**FROM: CATHY CIMBALO, Director
Department of Children's Services**

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH CENTRAL CITY LUTHERAN MISSION
FOR A KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract #02-169 with Central City Lutheran Mission in the amount of \$75,000, for a total contract amount of \$259,500 to provide a Kinship Support Services Program for the period beginning March 5, 2002, and ending September 30, 2003.

BACKGROUND: In the past, extended family members have had an informal role in the upbringing of related children, and in most cases, kinship care took place without the involvement or knowledge of child welfare agencies. The formal use of kinship care providers by child welfare agencies has rapidly increased over the last several years.

California Assembly Bill (AB) 1193, Chapter 794, Statutes of 1997, provides for the establishment of a Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP) to promote family stability for abused and neglected children by providing support services to relatives who provide homes for these children. The KSSP provides an array of community-based family support services to kinship families as a way to increase the placement stability and safety of children who are in the care of these relatives. Services provided include but are not limited to: individual and group counseling; tutoring; mentoring; support groups; recreational activities; information and referral services; day care; legal services; respite care; transportation and housing information.

In order to qualify for assistance in establishing a local KSSP, the State requires that a County have 40% or more of its children in relative care placements. San Bernardino County has 42% of its children in relative care placement and the San Bernardino City area has 58% of its children placed with relatives. During 1999 and 2000, DCS administrative staff surveyed relative caregivers, established a Kinship Advisory Council and collaborated with local organizations about the provision of services to relative caregivers and the children in their care. As a result of the interest demonstrated by attendance at focus groups and information/training meetings DCS implemented a pilot KSSP in the San Bernardino City area.

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In October 2001, a competitive procurement was completed by the Human Services System for a KSSP. Central City Lutheran Mission (CCLM) was found to have the most cost effective program and was therefore recommended for a contract award. On March 5, 2002, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with CCLM in the amount of \$184,500 for the provision of a KSSP.

CCLM's KSSP has been in operation since April 2002. The focus of this program is on providing family support by offering services to relative caregivers in order to help them provide a safe and nurturing environment for the children in their care.

In May 2002, a competitive procurement was completed by the Human Services system to provide Family Preservation, Family Support, Adoption Promotion and Support, and Time Limited Reunification services to families at risk of separating. This procurement resulted in 7 contracts being recommended for award, and approved by the Board in September 2002. At that time, approximately \$541,472 of the overall Promoting Safe and Stable Families budget was held in "reserve" by DCS pending clarification of the budget situation and further assessment of services needed to reach families at risk of separating. An assessment of needs by the Department of Children's Services identified that \$75,000 of this reserve is needed in the area of Family Support for relative caregivers. These children face a host of adjustment issues, as do their caregivers, related to health, discipline/parenting, financial security, and social integration.

Approval of this item will increase the current contract with CCLM by \$75,000 and will allow CCLM to continue to provide kinship support services through September 2003.

Contractor's performance is measured/monitored by reviewing the required monthly reports submitted by the contractor and semi-annual site visits performed by Human Services System staff to review contract compliance, fiscal, and program elements. CCLM continues to meet performance standards.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This contract amendment has been reviewed and recommended for approval by HSS Contract Compliance (Lori Ciabattini, Administrative Supervisor) on January 30, 2003 and the Office of County Counsel (Ruth Stringer, Chief Deputy County Counsel) on February 5, 2003. This item has also been reviewed by HSS Finance (Kris Letterman, Administrative Manager) on February 12, 2003 and by the County Administrative Office (Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst) on February 12, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The total amount of this contract is \$259,500, \$184,500 is state funded and \$75,000 is federally funded. There is no additional local cost to the County. Funds are included in the DCS Fiscal Year 02/03 budget and will be included in the Fiscal Year 03/04 budget. The total amount of this increase for Fiscal Year 02/03 is \$42,858 with the remaining balance of \$32,142 funded in FY 03/04.

Cost Reduction Review: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's proposal and recommends this action based on full reimbursement of expenditures by the State and Federal governments.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: Fifth

PRESENTER: Cathy Cimbalo, Director, Department of Children's Services, 388-0242

